



Virginia Aviation

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Legislative Reception held at Library of Virginia

AOPA President on hand as special guest

The **Virginia Aviation Business Association (VABA)** recently held their annual Legislative Reception at the Library of Virginia in Richmond. This annual event, co-sponsored by the **Virginia Airport Operators Council, Virginia Aviation Board, Washington Airports Task Force** and the **Virginia Transportation Safety Board**, allows the Virginia aviation community and many of Virginia's Senators and Delegates to meet to discuss important aviation matters.

The reception had an outstanding turnout and as in past years it was co-hosted by **Senator Charles J. Colgan** and **Delegate Frank D. Hargrove**.

This year's reception had a special guest. **Phil Boyer, President of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA)**, spoke to the attendees.

"Virginia has a strong tradition of supporting its GA airports, and that has paid dividends in economic benefits and promoting the Commonwealth as a place to do business," Boyer told some of the state's most influential politicians. "From Dulles International to airports serving the smallest communities, Virginia has always supported a vigorous system of airport funding, because GA is essential to linking the remote areas of the



AOPA President Phil Boyer spoke about the importance of GA and the 400,000 member association.

state."

Boyer noted that Virginia's aviation department has been an innovative leader through the administrations of four governors, supporting 67 public-use airports, serving as a proving ground for the Small Aircraft Transportation System (SATS), and funding a weather datalink service.

Virginia is also home to 11,000 AOPA members and 36 AOPA Airport Support Network volunteers. In fact, Virginia Director of Aviation Randall Burdette is a former Airport Support Network volunteer.

Boyer also discussed the value of general aviation with AOPA member and Virginia Aviation Board Chairman Roger Obendorf; the chairman of the Virginia House of Delegates Appropriations Committee, Vince Callahan; and with several candidates running for lieutenant governor, including longtime AOPA member Joe May, delegate from Leesburg. Also attending the reception was Virginia House of Delegates Speaker William Howell.



The Legislative Reception was well attended by many from the Virginia aviation community.

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Louisa County Airport hosts 2004 Toys For Tots Program

Louisa County Airport/Freeman Field proudly served as a sponsor of the 2004 Marines Toys For Tots Program. The toy drive was a tremendous success and the efforts produced twice as many toys as last year. Over 1000 toys were collected. The toys were distributed by the Salvation Army to needy families.

Dawn Pickhardt, manager of Louisa County Airport and who spearheaded the toy drive, sent a press release to all Airport Managers throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia alerting the Aviation community of the toy drive. Pilots from all over the Com-

monwealth flew in toys to help support this special event.

Ms. Pickhardt stated "We collected twice as many toys than last year. It's a wonderful feeling to help those less fortunate. The best Christmas present that I could get is knowing that I had a small part in helping to make some families Christmas much happier."

Ms. Pickhardt credits Admiral Dewitt Freeman for providing overwhelming support, including a sizable financial contribution to purchase toys.

Be on the lookout for info regarding next year's toy drive!



Airport Manager Dawn Pickhardt shows off the toys. Over 1000 were collected.

Virginia Aviation Ambassador Program

Recreational flyers prepare your aircraft for flight. The Virginia Department of Aviation is preparing to launch a program aimed at getting Virginia's pilots to visit airports throughout the state.

More information on the program will soon be distributed, be on the lookout.



Virginia Aviation Events

March 6-11, 2005 Developing Leadership Capability in the Corporate Aviation Function.

A course for corporate aviation managers will be held at the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration in Charlottesville. For more information visit www.darden.virginia.edu/exed/.

March 12, 2005 Ultralight Safety Seminar will be held at the Virginia Aviation Museum at Richmond International Airport. For more information visit www.doav.virginia.gov.

April 12-18, 2005 Sun 'n Fun Fly-In will be held in Lakeland, Florida. Please visit www.sun-n-fun.org for more information.

April 19, 2005 Virginia Aviation Board Workshop will be held beginning at 3:00 p.m., location TBA. No formal actions by the Board will be taken at any of the above workshops. Workshops will be held unless otherwise notified. All formal actions will take place during regular meetings. For additional information contact Carolyn Toth, Administrative Assistant, (804) 236-3637.

April 20, 2005 Virginia Aviation Board Meeting will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m., location TBA. For additional information contact Carolyn Toth, Administrative Assistant, at (804) 236-3637.

Submit upcoming event information to :
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Aircare Medevac will locate at Shenandoah Valley Regional

Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport (SHD) recently announced that Aircare Medevac would create a base at the Valley's airport.

The company will provide a Bell 412 helicopter and staff for full-time emergency operations to Rockingham Memorial Hospital in Harrisonburg and Augusta Medical Center in Fishersville.

The new service will bring 16 jobs and a valuable service to the area. The company will hire five critical care nurses, five paramedics, four instrument-rated pilots and two mechanics.

Aircare Shenandoah began moving into 3,000-square-foot of Hangar Three at SHD in early January.

An Aircare Medevac crew consists of an instrument-rated pilot, a nurse trained in intensive care treatment, and a paramedic with expertise in emergency rescue. The Bell 412 is a dual-engine helicopter

that, with a good tailwind, can travel in excess of 200 knots. A 30-mile trip can be done in 15 minutes, Gargana said. Fully equipped, the helicopter is a mobile intensive care unit worth \$4.3 million.

Medevac service in the Shenandoah Valley has been available since Pegasus began operating out of the University of Virginia Medical Center in 1984. Pegasus flies within a 100-mile radius of Charlottesville.

Aircare Medevac is part of PHI Air Medical Group, a subsidiary of Petroleum Helicopters Inc. (NASDAQ: PHELK), based in Lafayette, La. A leading provider of air transport in the Gulf of Mexico, it operates a fleet of 230 aircraft, mostly helicopters, and employs more than 1,700 people.

In 2003, the company reported profits of \$1.1 million on sales of \$269 million.



The Aircare Medevac crew will operate a Bell 412 during flight operations.

Virginia Aviation Safety Week 2005

Tentative Schedule

May 2, 2005 - Virginia Aviation Museum (RIC) - Richmond, VA 7-9 p.m.

May 3, 2005 - Manassas Airport (HEF) - Main Terminal Bldg., Manassas, VA, 7-9 p.m.

May 4, 2005 - Suffolk Airport (SFQ) - Fighter Factory - Suffolk, VA, 7-9 p.m.

May 5, 2005 - Roanoke, VA, Location TBD, 7-9 p.m.

This year's featured speaker for all safety presentations is **PATTY WAGSTAFF!** Please visit the Department's website (www.doav.virginia.gov) for more information.

U.K.-based aeronautical fabric engineering company locates first U.S. facility in Halifax County

Governor announces \$2.5 million investment, 50 new jobs in Southside Virginia

Governor Mark R. Warner recently announced that Lindstrand USA, Inc., a manufacturer of inflatable structures such as flood barriers, portable bridges and aircraft hangars, will invest \$2.5 million to open its first U.S. aeronautical fabric engineering and manufacturing facility in South Boston. The project will create 50 new jobs in the region. Virginia successfully competed with California, Kentucky and Texas for the project.

"Lindstrand USA has chosen Virginia for its first U.S. manufacturing facility thanks to the competitive incentives offered by the Commonwealth as well as the support and expertise offered by Virginia Tech's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program in South Boston," Governor Warner said. "This project will provide excellent high-tech job opportunities for Southside Virginians as we continue to work to diversify the region's economy."

Lindstrand USA, Inc. is a subsidiary of Lindstrand Technologies Ltd., which is based in Shropshire, England. The Lindstrand team has worked as aeronautical fabric engineers on the same site for 26 years. With designs certified in 48 countries and a perfect safety record, the company is the world's most versatile manufacturer of aerostats,

airships and hi-tech inflatable structures. Products designed by Lindstrand, USA are targeted for the homeland security, portable first aid and logistics, and recreation markets. Lindstrand is the exclusive supplier to all Formula 1 racing teams for fireproof racing car covers. The company is a three-time recipient of the award for fabric architecture from the Industrial Fabrics Association International.

"The South Boston location was selected due to the strong support and guidance provided by the Industrial Development Authority of Halifax County," said company official Jack Harrington. "Specific support was provided by Board Chairman John Cannon, Interim Executive Director Patsy Vaughan, the Halifax County Board of Supervisors and the Town of South Boston Manager Ted Daniel. Key support was also provided by the Office of Congressman Virgil Goode and the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Business Assistance. Additional benefits that attracted Dr. Lindstrand to the region include the financial and tax relief incentives offered by the Commonwealth of Virginia, Halifax County and the Town of South Boston, as well as the immediate availability of facilities that are appropriate for the large scale requirements associated with the manufacture of air ships and other

inflatable structures.

Further, the region offers a readily available work force with a strong work ethic."

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership worked with the Industrial Development Authority of Halifax County, the Virginia Employment Commission and Danville Community College to prepare the state's proposal and negotiate an incentive package to secure the project for Virginia. Governor Warner approved a \$100,000 grant from the Governor's Opportunity Fund to support Halifax County with the project. The Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission approved \$90,000 in Tobacco Region Opportunity Funds. The Virginia Department of Business Assistance will partner with Danville Community College to provide training through its Workforce Services Program.

"This high-tech manufacturing firm will bring 21st century jobs to our area and provide continued diversity to our manufacturing base," said William Fitzgerald, Chairman of the Halifax County Board of Supervisors. "This company is helping to improve the economy and continued growth of Halifax County and Southside Virginia."



Corporate Angel Network Pilot Volunteers Needed

Going their way? Give a cancer patient a lift.

Do your corporate jets ever fly an empty leg? Do your planes ever take-off with a seat or seats to spare? How about volunteering those seats to cancer patients traveling to or from treatment centers, if you happen to be going their way? Five hundred top corpora-

tions have already answered "Yes!" to these questions. They became participants in Corporate Angel Network (CAN), and you can too.

CAN makes it easy. Using a proprietary and secure computer program, CAN volunteers match flights to patient

requests, do all the paperwork and make all the arrangements. Call (914) 328-1313 for more information. For a current list of patient "rides needed," please visit: www.corpangelnetwork.org/corporate/seats.

Virginia Aviation Board allocates funds to Commonwealth's airports



At its bimonthly meeting held December 2004 in Richmond recently, the Virginia Aviation Board (VAB) approved tentative allocations for six of the Commonwealth's airports from the Commonwealth Airport Fund, totaling \$72,048. Receiving one of the largest allocations was **Suffolk Airport** in the amount of \$24,000 for T-Hangar Site Preparation (design). Other airports receiving allocations from the VAB were:

- **Blue Ridge Airport** in the amount of \$225 for Environmental Assessment for Future Development – Increase;
- **Culpeper Regional Airport** was awarded \$22,800 for Terminal Apron Expansion – Phase 3 (construction);

- **Louisa County Airport** was allocated \$4,651 for Apron & Parallel Taxiway Rehabilitation (design) – Increase and Airport Layout Plan (ALP) Update;

- **Hanover County Airport** was awarded \$42,000 for Terminal Building Renovation (design) and Airport Layout Plan (ALP)/Environmental Update.

- **Tappahannock Municipal Airport** in the amount of \$4,715 for Land Acquisition – (Parcels 5, 6A & 6B) – Increase;

- **William M. Tuck Airport** was awarded \$13,333 for Jet A Fuel System (design);

- **Chesapeake Regional Airport** was allocated \$2,324 for Extended Runway Safety Area (ERSA) Grading

(design).

At its bimonthly meeting held in Virginia Beach recently, the Virginia Aviation Board (VAB) approved tentative allocations for three of the Commonwealth's airports from the Commonwealth Airport Fund, totaling (VAB cont on pg. 7)

Lynchburg Regional Airport finished the year with a total of nine daily departures provided by two airlines. Total seat capacity, a standard industry indicator of product supply, increased by nearly 12 percent over last year to 355 daily departure seats.

US Airways has continued to see improved traffic at Lynchburg in recent months, due largely to increased frequencies to the carrier's Charlotte hub. Although the carrier discontinued all Pittsburgh service from Lynchburg in late 2004 due to the elimination of its Pittsburgh hub, customer response to the carrier's six round trip flights daily from Lynchburg on larger 37-seat DeHavilland Dash-8 aircraft has remained encouraging. For its part, Delta continues with three roundtrip jet flights daily to Atlanta while generating passenger loads that are consistently in the mid-60 percent range.

While the year saw a gradually improving airfare environment locally, continued fare matching by Delta with fares offered at Roanoke clearly helped fuel passenger growth. What's more, the recent restructuring of Delta's pricing system in order to simplify fares and become more competitive with low-fare competitors should continue to generate greater passenger usage of Lynchburg Regional Airport throughout 2005.

Airline passenger traffic jumped 25 percent at Lynchburg Regional Airport in 2004

Lynchburg Regional Airport officials recently released year-end statistics that show airline passenger traffic increased a full 25 percent in 2004 compared to the previous year. Overall, the airport handled a total of 120,174 passengers during the year, an amount that translates into some 24,000 more passengers using the airport than in 2003.

"Without a doubt, 2004 was a much better year for Lynchburg Regional Airport and our two airlines," said Airport Director Mark Courtney. "It's clear that more and more central Virginia air travelers have rediscovered Lynchburg Regional Airport and are responding to recent service improvements like our Delta jet service, upgraded US Airways equipment and more competitive fares."

For the year, US Airways handled a total of 68,093 passengers for a 22.5 percent increase over 2003. US Airways remained the dominant airline at Lynchburg Regional Airport with a passenger market share of 57 percent. The Delta Connection continued to attract passengers with its jet service, recording an impressive 29 percent gain over last year while carrying a total of 51,886 passengers in 2004.



New non-stop service to Tampa from NNWIA

Passenger traffic increase at NNWIA during 2004

AirTran Airways announced new non-stop air service between Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport and Tampa, Florida beginning February 9, 2005.

Jim Smith, Executive Director of the Peninsula Airport Commission, said, "We believe the Tampa service will be very popular with Southern Virginia residents and visitors. These flights are well-timed with an early morning departure from Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport and a mid-morning departure from Tampa. This will be AirTran's fifth city to be served non-stop from Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport. We continue to have the lowest average air fares and parking rates in Virginia to serve our customers as Virginia's value airport."

Airline passengers at Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport increased 25.6% in 2004 compared to 2003.

"A total of 915,968 passengers used Newport News/Williamsburg International Airport in 2004 and the airport handled 227,949 aircraft operations," said Smith. "This was an all-time record for our airport activity. We added more than 200 new parking spaces in 2004 to accommodate our passenger increase and have more than 1200 new parking spaces in some phase of design or construction. We also added two new jet loading bridges in 2004 and have an aircraft ramp expansion project underway. A new restaurant renovation should be completed soon."



Roanoke Regional and Virginia Tech/Montgomery County received FAA grants

Roanoke Regional Airport recently received \$1.94 million grant from the Federal Aviation Administration that will help buy new equipment, remove trees, relocate portions of two taxiways and pay for a portion of its master plan update.

The airport is in need of a runway sweeper, similar to a street sweeper, to keep runways and taxiways clear of debris. And with the grant, it can buy a firefighting vehicle to replace its 20-year-old piece of equipment.

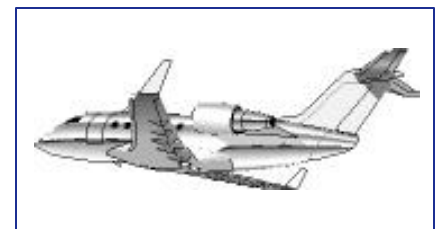
Some trees near the approach to the north runway will be removed. Design work to relocate the final sections of taxiways A and G, parallel to the airport's main runways, will be completed with the monies.

Virginia Tech/Montgomery County

Virginia Tech/Montgomery Executive Airport in Blacksburg received about \$191,000 to complete its 20-year master plan update.

The grant awarded to the airport in Blacksburg will provide direction for future plans.

The airport's plan will include an inventory of facilities, analysis of existing and future service demand, environmental studies, capital improvement plans and budget forecasts.



Sen. Allen speaks against NASA-Langley budget cuts

Calls proposal bad for American competition and the future of aircraft development

U.S. Senator George Allen (R-VA) recently spoke out against the proposed budget cuts to the aeronautics research program at NASA-Langley in Virginia.

"The proposed cuts to the important aeronautical vehicle systems program at NASA-Langley are detrimental to the thousands of talented highly-skilled employees who have been the backbone of our nation's aeronautics capabilities.

"Since the Clinton Administration there have been harmful cuts in aeronautics research and development. The result is that the U.S. has lost its lead in aircraft sales. We should be reversing this trend rather than becoming less competitive in aeronautical innovations.

"I have always advocated for funding and programs that increase our productivity and competitiveness. The work that is done at NASA-Langley is essential for our nation to stay on the cutting edge of air and spacecraft development. To cut these programs would seriously undermine America's ability to compete militarily and commercially as the next generation of aircraft is developed.

"I intend to join with my colleagues in Congress to work not only for this aeronautics research which is so vital for our future competitiveness and military capability, but also for the Virginia workers affected by these proposed cuts," said Senator Allen.

Independence Air expanding service to Florida from Dulles

Vegas service to begin in March

Independence Air is expanding its service to Florida in hopes of boosting its bottom line. The airline recently began flying three daily nonstop flights from its hub at Washington Dulles Airport to West Palm Beach, Florida. West Palm Beach is Independence Air's fourth Florida destination. It already flies to Orlando, Tampa and Jacksonville. It's adding a fifth Florida destination, to Fort Myers, later this month.



In addition to the Florida service, the airline is adding service from Dulles to Las Vegas in March. Las Vegas will become Independence Air's first West Coast destination and it plans to add more.

Early last month the airline terminated the leases on some of its jets, which kept spared Independence Air from having to file for bankruptcy.

For more information on Independence Air please visit www.flyi.com.

(VAB cont. from pg. 5)

\$73,992. **Shenandoah Valley Airport** was awarded \$68,000 for T-Hangar Site Preparation (design), **Tazewell County Airport** was allocated \$4,736 for obstruction removal for R/W 25 (land acq. & design), and **New Kent County Airport** in the amount of \$1,256 for fire extinguisher for apron.

The Virginia Aviation Board has eight members representing seven regions. The Board approves funding requests brought to it by the Virginia Department of Aviation, a state agency working to support and promote commercial and private aviation interests for the Commonwealth's 67 public-use airports.

Nondirectional Beacon Approaches Cut Back

Is the nondirectional beacon (NDB) going the way of the Dodo? Well, not quite, but its extinction is closer with an FAA program to weed out underused NDB approaches around the country so it can spend more money developing GPS-WAAS approaches. Now, there are some airports that still rely heavily on NDB approaches and the FAA isn't going to mess with those, according to

AOPA. However, it is going to try and find those NDBs that dutifully send their signals to nowhere because there are better alternatives available.

"Most new aircraft aren't even equipped with an ADF receiver," AOPA notes in its release. AOPA says it has polled its members and most have no problem with NDBs being shut down where alternatives exist. The FAA recently sent letters to 430

airport managers asking if they have redundant NDBs and noting that it can't afford to add more GPS approaches unless it gets rid of some of the old stuff. "To meet the public's demand for WAAS-capable RNAV procedures, the FAA must manage the growth in the number of instrument approach procedures by eliminating redundant ground-based procedures,"

AOPA said (source: avweb)



Reserve the Date!
2005 VAOC Spring Workshop & Meeting



Mark your calendar for

April 20-21, 2005*

VAOC Spring Workshop in Lynchburg, VA

Watch for registration materials later in February.
For more information, please contact Jewel Williams at (434) 455-6092. (jewel.williams@lynchburgva.gov)

* Virginia Aviation Board meeting to be held prior to workshop on the morning of April 20.

Wright Brothers First Flight Centennial Celebration Official DVD/VHS Collection

All the incredible sights and sounds from the six-day First Flight Centennial Celebration are now available to the public in a special commemorative 5 ½ hour multi-DVD/VHS collection titled "6 Days at Kitty Hawk" Celebrating a Century of Flight.

Orville and Wilbur Wright will forever be known in the aviation world for pioneering the first successful powered flight in 1903 at Kitty Hawk. One hundred years later, it was only fitting in honor of this historic flight that a weeklong celebration was held December 12-17, 2003 at Kill Devil Hills, N.C.

The comprehensive set, hosted by Aaron Tippin features highlights from the six-day salute to flying, including footage of rare planes, interviews and biographies of a virtual "Who's Who" from the first 100 years of flight, air-

show demonstrations, appearances by actor John Travolta, aviation experts such as John Glenn, Chuck Yeager and Neil Armstrong, and a special section devoted strictly to the 100 Aviation Heroes.

JHE Production Group, Inc., producers of this week-long extravaganza have teamed with The Film Foundry, producers of the Hollywood release "Bobby Jones - Stroke of Genius" to produce the definitive video commemorating the First Flight Centennial Celebration.

Amanda Wright Lane, great-grand niece of the Wright Brothers summed it up well: "For the Wright Family, the North Carolina Centennial Celebration of Flight was the realization of Uncle Orv's dream for new generations, 100 years later. Not only did the celebration and re-enactment of man's first flight attract

historians, pilots, media, and yes, the President of the United States of America, George W. Bush, it also attracted just plain curious folks. Folks that wondered what man's first controlled, powered flight looked, sounded, and felt like."

For more information about this very special collection, please visit our website at www.firstflightfilms.com or call toll free 800-849-9918.



If you are interested in learning more about what is going on in the Department of Aviation, please call our office at (804) 236-3624 or our Sponsor Hotline at (800) 292-1034. Visit our website for updates on future events at: www.doav.virginia.gov.



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